

AGRICULTURAL.



From the Missouri Farmer.

Tobacco.

Of the Cutting, Curing and Housing.

We have now arrived at the most difficult and critical stages of the whole process, every operation from this time until the plant is cured, requiring great attention and care, as well as skill and nicety of judgement in the execution. And hence a great contrariety of practice in some of the minutiae prevails, according to the superior skill and ability of various planters.

It is difficult to convey an idea of ripe tobacco by description. It can only be learnt by observation and experience. In general its maturity is indicated by the top leaves of the plant turning down and often touching the ground, becoming curled with yellow spots interspersed on their surface, looking glossy and shining, with an entire loss of fur, a manifest increase of thickness in the substance of the leaves, which when pinched in a fold between the finger and thumb will crack or split with ease. But the most experienced planters acknowledge that they are too apt to err in cutting their tobacco too soon, than deferring it too long.

As a proof of this, take two plants growing side by side of equal size and appearance in every respect, and both apparently ripe—cut one and weigh it both green and when cured: let the other stand a week longer and when weighed like the first, the difference in favor of the latter will be astonishing. If it be asked, why we do not avail ourselves of the advantage to be derived from thus deferring the operation? It may be answered, as I before observed, that tobacco while standing is liable to be injured and destroyed by more accidents than any other plant, such as hail storms, heavy rains, high winds, the depredations of worms, the growth of suckers from the root, which abstract greatly from the weight and thickness of the leaves, if suffered to grow, and which it is not always convenient to pull off. Besides this, the season of cutting tobacco is a very busy one to the planter, and too much work would accumulate on his hands by deferring it to the last moment. For these reasons it is considered most prudent to cut out the plants as soon as they will make good tobacco; in which case the loss in the aggregate amount of crop, is balanced by avoiding the risk of accidents, and being able to bestow more care and attention to what remains.

The cutters go over the ground by rows, each taking two at a time, and the plants they cut are laid in the intermediate row between them. This facilitates the picking up, as the cutting of four rows is thereby placed in one. The stalk of the plant to be cut is first split down with the knife about six inches, and after being cut off just below the bottom leaf, is inverted and laid upon the ground, to fall and become pliant for handling. The splitting of the stalks is important, both for the convenience of hanging it on sticks and accelerating the cure of the plant. To those unused to the culture and management of tobacco, it will be almost incredible to learn how soon it will sun-burn, as we call it, after being cut and turned over on the ground. This is effected by the hot rays of the sun, piercing and penetrating the tender parts of the leaves, and is manifested by the parts affected, turning white and soon becoming dry and crisp, and when cured, of a dark green colour, without possessing any of the strength or qualities of tobacco. In very dry, hot weather, sun-burning often takes place before a large plant falls sufficiently to be handled without breaking off the leaves; and for this reason the cutting in such weather, should always be made early in the morning, and not proceed after ten o'clock. Sometimes it is done in the evening when there is no prospect of rain, by which the packing up may be accomplished earlier the next morning, and with less risk of burning. As soon as the plants fall sufficiently to handle without breaking off the leaves, they are *handfuls*, as we call it; that is, they are picked up, and three, four or five plants are laid together, with their tails from the sun, and the stalks inclined and somewhat elevated against the sides of some of the hills. The pickers up, after going through this ground return and turn over each handful, that both sides of the plants may receive the benefit of the sun, and not be burnt; and this operation is again repeated if by this time the tobacco is not pliant

enough to be put in shocks. This is putting an indefinite number of handfuls together, the stalks in an erect position forming a sort of circle of any diameter, from two to six feet or more, at convenient distances in the field; and these shocks should be immediately and effectually covered with green bushes, or something else previously in place, for the purpose to exclude the rays of the sun.

The next operation (after the heat of the sun has declined) is to remove the tobacco to the house or scaffold, and hanging the plants on sticks four and a half feet long, and about one inch square. The common pine affords the best timber for this purpose, which will rise straight and with ease. From ten to twelve plants, according to size, may be hung on each stick, the width of two fingers to be left between each plant. The scaffolds are raised four or five feet from the ground, and the poles to receive the sticks are placed four feet apart, and are made to range east and west, so that the sticks will be north and south, to give both sides an equal benefit from the sun. The tobacco is commonly removed from the field to the house or scaffold upon the shoulders of the labourers, carefully put on and taken off to avoid bruising; but if the distance is great, carts are used, greater care being necessary to avoid bruising. This is considered so important that some judicious planters, make temporary scaffolds in the field, preferring the risk of injury from a smart rain to that of bruising by moving it far in a green state.

There are two modes of curing tobacco. One in the house altogether by fire, the other by the sun on scaffold. The first is esteemed the best and most effectual, but it is attended with great risk. Our houses are generally four sided pens, twenty feet square, built of round poles, and about twelve feet pitch. The joists are placed four feet apart, the rafters immediately over them, having beams corresponding with the joists, three feet perpendicular from each other, so as to afford ranges or tiers for the tobacco up to the crown; and the same tiers are fixed below the joists and at the same distance by extending poles across the house between the logs of the pen. The house is covered tightly with pine boards, and if it is intended to cure by fire, the openings between the logs should be closed to prevent the escape of heat. Such a house will cure from 2 to 3000 wt. according to the quality of the tobacco. If it be decided to cure by fire, the tobacco is carried immediately from the field to the house, hung on sticks, as before described, and these sticks crowded as close together on the tiers as they can possibly be, so as to exclude all air from the tobacco. It remains in this situation, until the leaves of the plants become yellow or of the colour of hickory leaves just before they fall. This will generally happen in four or five days, when the sticks must be spread and placed at their proper distances apart in the house. About six or seven inches is the proper distance, or any other that will prevent the plants on different sticks touching each other. A moderate heat which is gradually increased to a very strong one, is then applied, by making different ranges of fires throughout the house, and that wood is preferred and sought for, which will make the greatest heat with the least blaze and smoke. The fires must be continually kept up until the curing is effected, (say from four to six days) when not only the leaves, but the whole stalk becomes dry; and changes from a green or yellow, to a light brown colour.

If it is not to be cured by fire, the tobacco is brought to the scaffold and hung, and the sticks are crowded in the same way on the scaffold, until the same yellow colour is imparted to the leaves; and some planters are so particular as to cover their scaffolds with green bushes during this crowded state, to prevent sun-burning, when the proper time arrives which is indicated by yellow colour of the leaves, the sticks are thinned and placed at such a distance as to admit the influence of the sun and air, and if the weather is warm and fair, in five or six days, the curing will be so far effected as to justify the removal of the tobacco into the house, when it must be finally and properly arranged, and the cure will be gradually accomplished by time and season. But if damp hot weather supervenes, it will be necessary, both in this and in the case of tobacco already cured by fire, to make moderate fires under each whenever it comes in very high order. In such weather and in such order, tobacco is liable to contract a mould about the stems, which can only be prevented by keeping it dry by fires. This mould injures both the quality and appearance greatly, and cannot be easily rubbed off. Great attention is therefore necessary to prevent it by these occasional fires until regular cool weather sets in, after which there

is no danger. From the vicissitudes of our climate for some years past and other causes, it happens commonly that some portion of our tobacco is not mature, and is left until we are compelled to cut it by the approach of frost. Such plants, even if fully ripe, seldom cure of a good colour or quality for want of proper seasons. And here we may venture a general remark; which is, that tobacco cut early and fully ripe, will cure well and be of good quality under the most unfavorable circumstances, while that which comes late into the house, is difficult to cure and of inferior grade. After the housing of tobacco is all accomplished, and cool weather begins, the house should be closed with green bushes, or fence rails set up on end close around on the outside of the house, to exclude damp air, and beating rains, which generate mould, &c.

Of Stripping and Prizing.

Stripping is begun as soon after the plants are thoroughly cured and seasoned, as the convenience of the planter will permit. It is taken off the sticks in proper season or order, and packed in a large bulk, for this purpose, and generally in higher order than is proper for prizing, which enables the strippers to handle it with less waste, and to tie it more neatly. There are two facts generally believed to exist, in relation to the order of tobacco, which are unaccountable. One is, that tobacco in order, or in a moist state, is no heavier than when dry. The other, that if it is taken down and bulked, as it is going out of season, that is as it is passing from a moist to a dryer state, it will return in the bulk to the highest state of order it had previously acquired. These opinions, however, seem to have been established more by prescription than recent experiment, for I can find no person that will absolutely assert the facts, upon his own experience. But be it as it may, the latter fact is so generally believed as to be attended to in bulking tobacco.

In stripping, the best planters, make two qualities besides stemmed. For this purpose, every plant passes through the hands of the sorters (the most experienced and judicious of the laborers) who pull off the two first, or ground leaves, without looking. Upon examination, the remainder of the plant may be found fit for the first class—perhaps two more leaves are to be taken off, or perhaps the whole is only fit for the second class. In this way the first class is obtained, the leaves previously pulled off, are again sorted for the second class, and what is unfit for this is stemmed.

No definite idea of the equality of the different classes can be well conveyed by description. It can only, and soon will be acquired by observation and experience. The bundles of each consist of four or five leaves neatly wrapped around the head with another leaf. The stemmed tobacco (about two thirds of the stem only being taken out) is tied in large bundles, and when packed in the hog-head for pressing is untied and laid loosely, but in straight and uniform layers.

After stripping, some planters hang up their tobacco again upon sticks drawn smooth and somewhat to a feather-edge, and as it comes in proper order for prizing, it is taken down and bulked, and closely and effectually covered, till the time of prizing arrives. The months of April and May, are thought the best time for this. Others pack their tobacco in double win-rows, that is slightly lap the tails of the bundles, placing the heads on the out side, and thus raise a bulk three or four feet in height. It remains in this situation well weighted, but oftentimes without cover all the winter, and perhaps gets completely dry; but returns in proper order for prizing in the warm weather of April or May. It is a matter of much doubt and dispute, which of these two modes is the best. Perhaps the latter is to be preferred, because it is the least trouble, provided the planter has plenty of house room, and can so order it as to leave the winrows entirely free from interruption. Other planters more carelessly carry on the operation of stripping and prizing together, without due regard to the order of the tobacco, which may account for the excess of inferior qualities, and diversity of prices exhibited in our markets.

There cannot be the slightest doubt upon this question—that if the farmers of Kentucky and Missouri will turn their attention to this subject with the same diligence as they do other agricultural pursuits, we shall in time be able, not only to furnish our Naval enterprise with this article, as well as, also, for exportation to foreign markets.

J. Q. ADAMS.—This old man must now be regarded as a designing incendiary, and should at once be removed from the Committee of Foreign Relations, if not from the House of Representatives. At first, we supposed the

presentation of the treasonable petition, which we noticed on Friday, might be in consequence of his absurd notions upon the subject of the right of petition; but by reference to our Congressional Analysis, it will be seen that his only objection to granting the prayer of the treasonable petitioners is, that the movement is premature. He distinctly avows, that unless the Northern Democrats will abandon their determination to uphold Southern institutions, a dissolution of the Union must soon take place. He would have the permission of our Union depend upon the success of Abolition. What will the whigs of the South say to this new development? Can they consent longer to act with men who are warring against the South, and who hesitate not to express their determination to rend asunder the holy ties which bind the States into one nation, unless their unhallowed objects shall be accomplished? We trust that the old incendiary will be deprived of further power to work mischief. For several years he has been an incubus upon the country; omitting no opportunity of violating the rules of the House, by which he could get his Abolition petitions before the national legislature, and thus vilify the Southern members; retarding all business by his long harangues, week after week, in express opposition to the wishes of the nation, and disregarding all the rules of decency and justice which stand between him and his unhallowed purposes.

Does it become our national councils longer to tolerate one so reckless of all consequences—who would prefer to see his country fall a sacrifice to his malevolence, rather than be defeated in his unholy schemes.

This step must have been premeditated.—His views upon the Chinese question and upon Abolition may have been designed to prepare the way for a full avowal of his visionary doctrines with regard to what he considers the duty of nations, to enforce their views of Christian law with fire and sword. We should not be much surprised to find him hereafter avowing, that, in his opinion, England ought to send her fleets and armies to tear out negro slaves from their masters. Mr. Marshall's proposition is as lenient as the aggravated nature of the case will permit. Every one must regret the occurrence of an event which demands the expulsion from the House, of one who has held the highest station in his country; but there should be no delicacy in the matter when necessity requires the most rigorous measures. We can conceive of nothing which should make our Representatives hesitate a moment to vote to expell him from the national councils. What security can we have against the most infamous attempts to destroy our national existence, if such a man is to be tolerated by his reasonable course? There should be no flinching in this matter. He has been for some time presenting petitions upon the Creole matter, in justification of England, and now has taken the next step—the last, we trust for the honor and safety of our Union, that he will ever be permitted to take. The country has borne with him too long. Every new outrage which is passed by, only emboldens him to make a still more infamous attack upon the national welfare.—[Missouri Reporter.]

ARKANSAS LITERATURE.—In the State of Arkansas it seems that 'poetry has riz.'—The proprietors of the Washington Telegraph inform their patrons that they will take *corn, pork, potatoes, &c.* in payment of subscriptions, if delivered immediately; they assign the following poetical reason:

"Tis winter, and no more the breezes
Buzz amongst the budding trees;—
And whilst the boy with ragged trowsers
Shivering homeward drives the cowses,
Newly frost bit are his toeses,
And bless my life how blue his nose is."

N. O. Picayune.

PASS THE WORD.

The Bankrupt Law is to go into full operation—the bill to repeal it having been rejected in the Senate [on the 28th ult.—and rejected, too, by 23 out of 50 members.—The vote was for the Repeal Bill, 22; against it, 23. Cuthbert, Bagby, Dixon, Preston and Mouton, were absent. Cuthbert has not been in the Senate this session. Bagby and Dixon were both too sick to leave their rooms, and Mouton and Preston paired off. The Cincinnati correspondent of the Louisville Journal very correctly pronounces the Bankrupt Law "the most immoral, impolitic and ruinous measure which has ever emanated from Congress."

But it will have done its worst before a new Congress can be elected. The rights of creditors will be sacrificed before a change can be effected in the Senate, by which the majority could be united in favor of making

the Law what it should be. Existing debts will be wiped out even before the validity of the act can be tested before the Supreme Court. Creditors cannot, then, be benefited by repealing the odious act—but the community may be most materially benefited, if the majority will unite in favor of amendments to render the law rigid, uniform and operative on banks and other trading corporations.

Let us, then, resolve to hold the enactors and advocates of the Law responsible for the ills it is certain to inflict on the public, and determine to turn the weight of just indignation which will be aroused, in favor of the modifications which all honest men desire.—Let every Democrat pass the word: "We go for amendments, to include corporations."

THE RADICAL.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY, 19, 1842.

State School Monies.

It will be seen by an article copied from the Jefferson Enquirer, that our County has received no part of the monies set apart as a permanent fund by the State, for the support of common Schools. Ralls has received her whole quota, and much credit is due to her citizens for the early and effectual organization which has been effected in her different School Townships. A little attention to their own interests, has been more than compensated by the amount of the State School fund which is appropriated to them by Law. The Townships in this County and elsewhere neglecting to organize under the Law of 1839, are losing sight of their interests most grossly. They do not receive any portion of the County School fund, amounting this year in this County to the sum of \$329, nor do they get a dividend from the State fund, amounting annually to about \$19,000, until they are organized under this Law. It is very apparent that if there existed in all the Townships of the County, a thorough and efficient organization, that in many of them the cost of tuition of the children would be diminished, one half at least of what it now is. We hope that during this year those that are now organized will be careful to have their reports sent in to the proper officer in due time and thereby secure a portion of the State fund for the next year, and those that have not organized under the Law of 1839, will proceed to become so without delay. Let township officers see to this in time.

We learn that bankrupts are pouring into Jefferson City in one long unbroken stream of humanity. Men that never dreamed of paying a debt before, are now disregarding every danger of land & sea, and moving heaven & earth to pay off their debts, and obtain a clear acquittance, under this Bankrupt act. What a glorious Administration that pays ones debts, by an order of Court! We hope to hear no more of the cry of hard times, when every man may pay off his debts without money or property.

The "Peoples Organ" is the title of a new paper lately commenced by Messrs. HIGGINS and MEAD, in St. Louis. Mr. Higgins was one of the proprietors of the Missouri Argus. The "Organ" is published on the cash principle, and judging from the number before us, it cannot fail of success.

We had not space last week to give any portion of the debate in the House of Representatives, upon the resolutions, censuring Mr. Adams, offered by Messrs. Gilmer and Marshall.—The reader will find the substance of the debate on the 26th and 27th ult., in this weeks paper. Southern Whigs will see from this who are their friends and the friends of the Union.

The South with the aid of the Democracy of the North, have hitherto successfully resisted the machinations of the Abolitionists in the Halls of Congress. But under the new apportionment, how is this to be done? The non-slaveholding States will have the ascendancy, and in the next Congress, let them look out for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, as the entering wedge of their nefarious designs.

The article upon the cultivation of tobacco, we take to be worthy of the farmers special attention.

COLT, the murderer of Adams has been found guilty of murder in the first degree. His counsel have prepared to take the case to a higher Tribunal. An unusual degree of feeling and excitement prevailed during the whole trial.

We received nothing new from Congress by Thursdays mail later than we give on the first page.

The Reporter at St. Louis, and Enquirer at Jefferson City, have been selected by Judge Wells, for the publication of bankrupt notices in this State.

Governor REYNOLDS has addressed a very pertinent and sensible letter to a number of petitioners for the pardon of Alanson Work, who was sentenced to imprisonment in the Penitentiary for 12 years, from Marion County. The petition comes from the land of steady habits—old Connecticut, and is signed by the pastor and